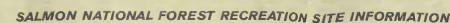


## Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current  
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices



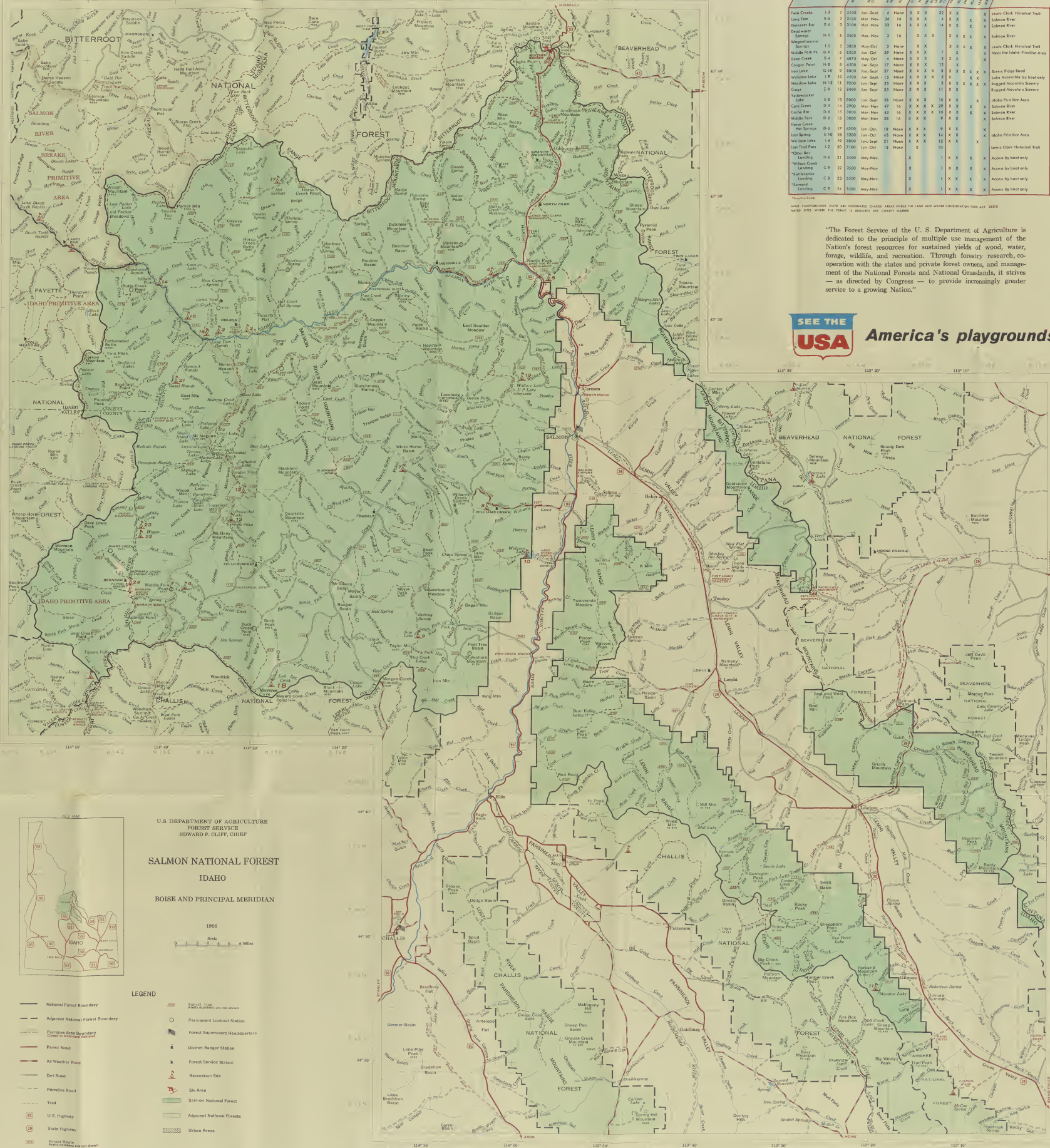
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most CAMPOUNDS LISTED ARE DESIGNATED "PRIORITY AREAS" UNDER THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION ACT, 1969/70

<sup>10</sup>The Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the states and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives — as directed by Congress — to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation."



## America's playgrounds



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
EDWARD P. CLIFF, CHIEF

SALMON NATIONAL FOREST  
IDAHO






















BOISE AND PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

1966

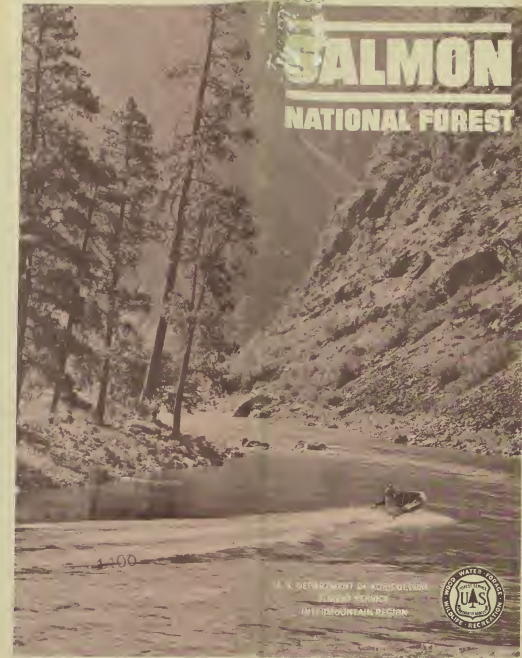
Scale

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

LEGEND

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | National Forest Boundary                              |  | Forest Trail<br>Paths (usually are not shown) |
|  | Adjacent National Forest Boundary                     |  | Permanent Lookout Station                     |
|  | Permittee Area Boundary<br>(used in National Forests) |  | Forest Supervisors Headquarters               |
|  | Paved Road  |  | District Ranger Station                       |
|  | All Weather Road                                      |  | Forest Service Station                        |
|  | Dirt Road   |  | Recreation Site                               |
|  | Primitive Road  |  | Sh Area                                       |
|  | Trail   |  | Salmon National Forest                        |
|  | U.S. Highway  |  | Adjacent National Forests                     |
|  | State Highway   |  | Urban Areas                                   |
|  | Forest Route<br>(paths (usually are not shown))       |   |   |





### MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

The Forest Service working with Lemhi County extended a wagon road from Gibbonsville into Montana. That was in 1867. That old wagon road is now U.S. Highway 93 passing through the Salmon National Forest on its way from Mexico to Alaska. A visitor center is located on the Lost Trail Pass to provide information to the many visitors.

The beauty spots and the recreational activities in this National Forest are numerous and worth extra effort.

**Hunt with rifle, bow, or camera** — Big game seasons apply to mule deer, white tail deer, big horn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat. Bird hunters can find chukar partridge, and sage ruffed and Franklin grouse. Also seen on the Forest are moose and antelope as well as the cautious cougar, coyote, bobcat, and black bear. Fur bearers at home here are the mink, muskrat, martin, beaver and weasel. Camera fans can "shoot" all these on film and even try to get a picture of the elusive cony storing hay in the rocks.

**Idaho Primitive Area** — Forest trails lead into the Big Horn Crag within the Idaho Primitive Area.



### A BEAUTY SPOT IN AMERICA

This is what the "local folks" say, and they advise you to view the Salmon River Mountains in the early spring as new bunchgrass blends with the old, casting a silver-green shadow across the hills. Ride a raft down the bluestem water of the foaming Middle Fork. It is called the "Impassable Canyon" by Colonel Bernard's map of 1879. Spot the mountain goat silhouetted against the sky; he has already been watching you. This is the Salmon National Forest.

Fish for the mighty salmon as it migrates to the spawning beds in the head waters of the Salmon River. The ocean-going rainbow trout (steelhead) adds to the already exceptional mountain fishing. Elk, deer, mountain goats, and mountain sheep can all be hunted in the proper season. Seasons and limits for all fish and game are carefully controlled by the Idaho State Fish and Game Department. Their biologists work closely with the local Forest Rangers to insure continued protection of wildlife habitat. The really ambitious sportsman can fish for steelhead in the Salmon River on Monday, then on Tuesday climb the peaks to hunt deer and elk as November snows mark winter's beginning. This, too, is the Salmon National Forest.

### THE FIRST PEOPLE

Right thousand years ago men were living along the Salmon River. What drew these primitive people to the rock-climbed canyons of the Salmon? And once there, why did they stay? Was it the abundance of fish, animals, and other food — the protection afforded by the steep cliffs of the canyon — or the moderate winters? All are possible answers. Evidence of their culture, now called the Bitterroot Culture, can still be found.

These primitive men were the forefathers of the northern Shoshoni Indians. The Shoshoni were instrumental in speeding the Spanish-introduced horse from their southern cousins to the Flathead, Nezperce and Blackfoot tribes to the north and therefore, have been termed the "horse brokers" of the West.

Most early-day trappers and settlers called these Indians the "Snakes." Captain Clark in the Lewis and Clark Journals said the name "Snake" originated from the ability of these Indians to tame snakes. One early-day student of the Shoshoni has a different opinion. He says the name "Snake" was the result of faulty communication. The Indian word Shoshoni can be broadly translated "weavers of grass lodges." The early white men misinterpreted this sinuous sign language to mean snake instead of weavers. It was from this band of Shoshoni that Sacajawea was captured as a girl, and

### MAN-CAUSED FIRES-- A NEEDLESS WASTE

Please be careful with fire while travelling through or camping in the Salmon National Forest. On this National Forest, recreation visitors and smokers cause most of the man-caused fires.

**ABANDONED warming or campfires are the NUMBER ONE cause of man-caused forest fires in the Salmon National Forest.**

Please build your fire in the grill or fire circle whenever possible. Make sure your fire is dead out before leaving it.

**SMOKERS are the NUMBER TWO cause of man-caused fires.**

If you smoke, be sure to do it in a safe spot and extinguish flammable material completely before discarding. Smoking while riding horses or trail scooters is not recommended.

### FIRE RESTRICTIONS

An axe, bucket, and shovel are handy tools for all Forest visitors and are required during the fire season for the vehicle and boat travelers in the Salmon National Forest.

During extreme fire conditions, other camping and travel restrictions may be imposed to protect the Forest.

### THE NEWCOMERS

On August 12, 1805, white men first beheld the western slopes of the Rockies. With three men Captain Meriwether Lewis crossed through Lemhi Pass. After meeting the local Shoshoni Indians, Lewis persuaded them to accompany him back into Montana to help the main party. Under Captain Clark they were still dragging the boats slowly up the Beaverhead River. Sacajawea was with the main party, and it was on the Beaverhead that she was reunited with her brother Camekwai.

Lewis and Clark decided to split up again. With an advance party of 11, Clark set out to reconnoiter the Salmon River while Lewis remained behind to complete the horse trading with the Indians. Camekwai, a chief of the Shoshoni, had told Clark that the TOM-AGIT-PAW (Big Fish Water) was impassable. After fourteen tortuous miles down the Salmon River canyon Clark agreed with the Indian, and the party turned back. The entire company then moved up the North Fork of the Salmon River, reversing the Continental Divide at Lost Trail Pass. (A Forest Service visitor information center is located on this pass to interpret this and other historic features of the area.)

It was 20 years later in 1825 that Peter Skene Ogden led a party of the Hudson Bay Company into the Salmon River area in search of beaver. Captain Bonneville's company attempted to winter near Carmen in 1832, leaving after a few months. Missionary Samuel Parker passed through the Salmon River country following the Nezperce Trail to begin his ministry with that tribe.

In 1855, fifty years after the Lewis and Clark Expedition, a group of Mormon pioneers moved into the Lemhi Valley. They began farming and built Fort Lemhi for protection from the Indians. Even so, continued Indian harassment forced the settlers to return to Utah in 1858.

Gold was discovered on Napias Creek in 1866. By the next year 7,000 people were living in Leesburg, the gold rush city. The town of Salmon originated as a supply point for this 16-million-dollar mining boom. Soon, other mining districts such as Shoup, Uppes, Gibbonsville, Gilmore, and Yellow Jacket sprang up.

This influx of people settled the country that stirred up the Indians. Chief Joseph, during his famous retreat, fought a key battle with General John Gibbon in Big Hole just over the hill from the present town of Gibbonsville. A few days later a scouting party of the Nezperce surprised and massacred a small party of freighters headed for Salmon.

Reports that five Chinamen and two ranchers had been killed resulted in the muster of troops at Fort Boise. These troops commanded by Colonel Bernard set out in June of 1879 for the Middle Fork of the Salmon River to round up a band of renegade Indians. This campaign, called the Sheep-eaters War, resulted mainly in the exploration and mapping of the rugged terrain of the Big Creek, Leon Creek, and the Middle Fork of the Salmon. The military campaign netted the capture of two squaws and a papoose and the eventual surrender of 51 of the hostile Indians.

### RIVER BREAKS

The Salmon River Breaks are the steep canyon walls of the Salmon River. Ask a smokejumper, smokechaser, or Forest Ranger about them. If he has ever fought a fire in this country, he will remember.

The tree-studded Breaks are colorful and picturesque as viewed from the jetboat on the river. But

these were the Indians that Gail Lewis met soon after crossing the Continental Divide.

Many archaeological relics, such as the pictograph on this map, are present in the Salmon National Forest. These relics provide valuable information by which the history of the "early people" can be traced. In 1965, Idaho State University, in cooperation with the Forest Service, uncovered and dated evidence of habitation 8,200 years ago. Please do not disturb or remove relics. They are valuable for the scientific study of the early cultures. The American Antiquities Act of June 8, 1906, and the State of Idaho Antiquities Act of 1963 prohibit the taking or defacing of any object of antiquity.

### MIXED-UP ROCKS

The Salmon National Forest is located in east-central Idaho with the impressive crests of the Bitterroot range forming the east boundary and the Idaho-Montana border. Elevations vary from 2,450 feet at the mouth of Horse Creek in the Salmon River Canyon to 11,350 feet on top of Big Peak near Leadore.

The Lemhi River, Middle and North Forks of the Salmon River, Camas and Panther Creeks are all major branches of the Salmon River which bisects the Forest.

The geology of the area is as interesting as it is complex. Precambrian formations containing quartz, limestone, and shale can be found on the east side near Leadore. The Salmon River and Bitterroot Mountains to the west are dominated by the gray granites of the Idaho Batholith. Commanding a position in the center of the granites are the Border Zone rocks. They are mainly along the Salmon River and are similar to the Precambrian rocks to the east.

To further complicate things, a lava flow of the Challis volcanics blocked the Salmon River nearly two million years ago. Although this did not divert the Salmon River, it did create an extensive fresh water lake. This lake was responsible for leveling the Salmon and Lemhi valleys. Eventually the determined Salmon cuts through the lava dam leaving sedimentary rocks and fish fossils as evidence of the past.

Gold, silver, and lead deposits are by-products of the formation of this land. These were the areas that originally attracted the miners. Today people still search for lead and silver and, in addition, cobalt, molybdenum, and thorium are on the want list. Some areas are well-known to the "rockhound fraternity" for their desirable agate and other mineral specimens. Scuba divers with their ingenious "river bottom vacuums" search the crevasses for scattered gold nuggets. This, like gold panning, is a hobby with hope for a small reward.



### PRODUCTS OF THE FOREST

The natural resources of the forests in the Salmon area have been an important part of its economy since the days of the first settlers. The Forest Service became a partner in the management of these resources on November 5, 1906, when the Salmon River Forest Reserve was established by President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1908, the name was changed to the Salmon National Forest and parts of the Lemhi and Bitterroot were added to form a 14.8-million-acre National Forest much as it is today.

Grazing once provided meat and milk for the early miners. Originally a few ranchers ran large herds of longhorn and mixed breeds of cattle, using the country as open range both summer and winter. The modern Salmon ranchers pride themselves in the quality of their stock and their rangeland. About 8,500 sheep and 10,000 cattle graze each year in this Forest. Planned management of the suitable range of the Forest can provide a continuing forage supply.

The demands of the miners for mine props and lumber initiated the logging industry. Today, laminated beams and lumber are major products. Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, spruce, and alpine fir trees are used by this modern industry. Nearly 28 million board feet of timber are annually being harvested from the Salmon National Forest.

Timber is harvested under the supervision of professional foresters. Establishment of a new "forest crop" follows the logging. Once the young stand is established, protecting it from insects and diseases, as well as fire, becomes an important job of the Forest Ranger.

The spruce budworm is a constant pest in this and adjoining National Forests. The larval stage of this moth consumes the tender needles of young and old trees. Serious growth loss and death of the trees is averted by periodic control of the insects. The sustained production of forest products and the maintenance of the watersheds of the Salmon River is a complex job. The Ranger District Multiple Use Plan helps the Ranger accomplish this. The needs of people, as well as animal and plant life, are recognized in this Plan. The Salmon National Forest will continue to meet the recreational needs of the visiting public, perpetuate the clear water of the Salmon River, and supply the many products of the National Forest.



### CHINOOK SALMON

Salmon is from the Latin word salire meaning "to leap." True to their name — salmon migrate from the ocean, leaping their way through the rapids to spawn in the headwaters of the Salmon and other western rivers. After spawning, adult salmon die. Young salmon spend one to two years in the fresh water before heading for the ocean to grow and mature. Biological instinct leads mature Chinook Salmon to the stream of their birth and the cycle begins again.



### STEELHEAD TROUT

These ocean-going rainbow trout spawn in the headwaters of the Salmon and other rivers. The young migrate to the ocean for about a two-year stay, reaching a size of 10 to 20 pounds before returning to the stream of their birth. Unlike salmon, steelhead do not die naturally after spawning. However, a second spawning run by steelhead is extremely unlikely due to the rigors of the journey.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Forest Supervisor Salmon National Forest Forest Service Building Salmon, Idaho 83467	District Ranger Indianola Ranger District North Fork, Idaho 83466
District Ranger Cobalt Ranger District Cobalt, Idaho 83229	District Ranger Lendore Ranger District Lendore, Idaho 83464
District Ranger North Fork Ranger District North Fork, Idaho 83466	District Ranger Salmon Ranger District Salmon, Idaho 83467

Lost Trail Pass Visitor Center — June-October

